

III. REMARKS

This paper responds to the final office action mailed October 3, 2002 ("the office action"). Claims 1, 5-11 and 56 are currently pending. Claims 1, 7, 11 and 56 have been amended herein. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 102/103

Sections 2-6 of the office action rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103 as allegedly being anticipated, or made obvious by, U.S. Patent No. 5,116,249 to Shiotani et al. ("Shiotani"). However, section 7 of the office action noted that Shiotani did not appear to teach or suggest a lever extending from the plane of the table work surface when in the unlocked position. Without going into the merits of Shiotani, Applicants note that independent claims 1 and 56 have been amended to recite the first table including a work support surface defining a plane, with the lever extending from the plane of the work support surface when in the unlocked position. Claims 7 and 11 have been amended to make them consistent with claim 1 from which they depend.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentable over Shiotani.

Conclusion

As evidenced by the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to each issue raised in the Office Action. The amendments provided herein place all of the claims in condition for allowance and thus, are believed to be proper for entry under 37 CFR 1.116. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at

952.474.3701 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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